



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
www.opi.mt.gov
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment

Overview of Assessment

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment is an annual statewide assessment which is federally mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The testing window for 2006 is November 28 through December 19. The MontCAS ELP measures proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension. (The comprehension score is a composite score based on the Listening and Reading sections.)

Contact information for the testing contractor, TASA

Pamela Demarest, Montana Program Manager
pdemarest@tasa.com or 888-854-9596

OPI Contact Information

Lynn Hinch, Bilingual Specialist, lhinch@mt.gov or 406-444-3482
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444-3656

Timeline

November 3, 2006	Training materials are mailed to system test coordinators
November 13, 2006	Testing materials are mailed to system test coordinators and a form to order additional materials will be posted online
November 28 – December 19, 2006	Testing Window (should a system wish to request to begin testing as soon as materials arrive, please contact Judy Snow)
December 20 – January 10, 2007	Window for all materials to be received by TASA Scoring Services (all materials must be received by TASA no later than January 10)

Test Levels

The MontCAS ELP has 5 grade spans: K-1, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Students must be tested with the form that corresponds to their grade in school. No off-level testing is permitted.

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

Test Content and Administration and Scoring Overview

Subtest	Grade Span	General Administration Information	General Scoring Information
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K ▪ 1-2 ▪ 3-5 ▪ 6-8 ▪ 9-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual ▪ Group of 5-7 ▪ Group ▪ Group ▪ Group ▪ For the administration, a CD (requires a CD player or computer) will be provided with testing materials. Answers are entered on a scannable answer document. 	All bubbled answer documents will be scanned and scored by TASA.
Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K ▪ 1-2 ▪ 3-5 ▪ 6-8 ▪ 9-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual ▪ Individual ▪ Individual ▪ Individual ▪ Individual Answers are entered on a scannable answer document. 	Using a rubric, the test administrator/examiner scores the speaking section and enters the scores on the scannable answer document. Answer documents will be scanned and scored by TASA.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K ▪ 1-2 ▪ 3-5 ▪ 6-8 ▪ 9-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual ▪ Group of 5-7 ▪ Group ▪ Group ▪ Group Answers are entered on a scannable answer document. 	Answer documents will be scanned and scored by TASA.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K ▪ 1-2 ▪ 3-5 ▪ 6-8 ▪ 9-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Observation ▪ Group of 5-7 ▪ Group ▪ Group ▪ Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scoring of the K Writing consists of a checklist that the teacher uses and bubbles the information on a scannable answer document. ▪ For all other grades, student writing responses will be scored by TASA.

Beginner Form Guidance

Guidance for Beginner Reading/Writing Form

There are two forms of differing difficulty for the Reading/Writing portions of the assessment for all grades except Kindergarten.

- **Form 1** is a Beginner Level form that is designed to only be used by LEP students with beginning or novice skills in English, so, it would be appropriate for immigrant students in their first year in a U.S. school (LEP1), first grade Hutterite students, and possibly other LEP first grade students that are not reading simple stories and writing simple sentences.
- **Form 2** should be used for all other LEP students. Using this rule of thumb, most of your students should be taking the Level 2 Form.

The Form 2 will be distributed automatically to all LEP students based on the October enrollment count. If any Beginner (Form 1) Forms are needed however, they must be ordered directly from the testing contractor by October 20, 2006. Systems/schools are responsible for identifying the LEP students with basic language skills and submitting a completed *LEP1 Student Registration Form* to the testing contractor, TASA. The form can be downloaded at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Form/06ELPStudentRegFrm.pdf>.

Please direct questions regarding identification of students with limited English proficiency to Lynn Hinch, OPI Bilingual Specialist, lhinch@mt.gov.

Time Needed for Testing

Administration time varies with each test level. The entire Kindergarten Test is individually administered, as is the Speaking Test at all levels. Estimated test administration times will be summarized in the *MontCAS 2006 Test Coordinator's Guide*.

Training Materials

MontCAS ELP training materials will be shipped to all Systems with a known LEP population on November 3, 2006. In addition, a Training Presentation will be available online beginning November 6. Additional details regarding the presentation will be announced soon.

Distribution of Assessment Materials

MontCAS ELP assessment materials will be shipped from the test contractor on November 13, 2006. Each school's materials will be packaged separately and sent directly to the System Test Coordinator for distribution.